

## ACTIVE ARMY INSTALLATION FORT WAINWRIGHT

**FEDERAL FACILITIES IDENTIFICATION:** AK6210022426

**LOCATION:** Fairbanks, Fairbanks North Star Borough, Alaska

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** Fort Wainwright is on the eastern edge of the city of Fairbanks in the interior of Alaska. The Fort comprises 917,000 acres.

The history of this site begins with Ladd Army Airfield (LAAF) established in 1939. In September 1942, LAAF had an important role in the implementation of the wartime lend-lease program as a crew-transfer point for conveying various types of military aircraft to Russia. On 18 September 1947, LAAF was redesignated Ladd Air Force Base. Its early missions were to serve as a resupply and maintenance base for the remote distant early warning sites and an experimental station in the Arctic Ocean. Ladd Air Force Base was transferred to the Army and Fort Wainwright was established in 1961. Fort Wainwright served as a base for helicopter activities.

At some point between December 1945 and 1947, an inspection of chemical supplies at Ladd revealed that "chemical bombs, incendiaries, and decontamination materials were all in a state of doubtful condition due to their outdoor storage and the fact that they had been subjected to extreme low temperatures during the previous winter." A later entry in the history states that large quantities of ammunition at Ladd "had to be condemned."

Records indicate that no lethal chemical agents have been used at Fort Wainwright; however, several chemical agent identification sets (CAIS) were stored there until the late 1970s. Documentation indicates that 30 CAIS were buried at Fort Wainwright. Remediation activities have not discovered any toxic chemical agents at Fort Wainwright, except for six CAIS that were removed as a result of excavation activities near Birch Hill sometime during the 1960s. Another source indicates that four CAIS were stored at Fort Wainwright prior to shipment to Rocky Mountain Arsenal for disposal. There is no evidence of chemical agent manufacture or testing at Fort Wainwright; however, CAIS have been found and removed.

**CURRENT USE/RESTORATION ACTIONS COMPLETED:** Fort Wainwright is an active Department of Defense (DoD) installation.

Fort Wainwright is a National Priorities List installation with an extensive Installation Restoration Program (IRP), primarily addressing conventional hazardous waste and contamination. One site was identified as potentially having chemical warfare materiel present. A removal action was conducted and the site is considered response complete (RC).

Ground penetrating radar surveys were conducted in at a suspected burial site 1987 and 1992, but the results were inconclusive. In 1995, the Army conducted an interim remedial action which consisted of excavating the site to ensure that no chemical agents remained. A site excavation found no cylinders, crates, or other evidence of chemical agents.

Site Number	Site Name	Status
FTWW-082	Chemical Agent Dump Site	RC 1997

Reference: Research Results, History of Chemical Warfare Materiel at PACAF Bases, Installations in Alaska, 2000

FORT WAINWRIGHT (AK6210022426)								
SITE:		Chemical Agent Dump Site (OU1)						
SITE NUMBER:		FTWW-082						
SITE DESCRIPTION:								
<p>The Chemical Agent Dump Site, formerly known as Chemical Warfare Disposal Area, is a 50 by 150 foot area at the base of Birch Hill, north of the main cantonment area of Fort Wainwright, and east of the Fairbanks Fuel Terminal. The site was addressed as part of Operable Unit (OU) 1.</p> <p>Twenty (20) to 30 17.5-liter cylinders containing mustard agent were buried in a trench in this area in 1946 or 1947. In 1966, seven cylinders and an unknown number of crates with glass vials were removed and the trench was refilled. The cylinders and wooden crates were buried at a depth of approximately eight feet.</p> <p>This area was identified as an Unknown area in the 1993 and 1996 Project Manager for Non-stockpile Chemical Materiel Survey and Analysis Reports.</p>								
CURRENT USE/RESTORATION ACTIONS COMPLETED:								
<p>Ground penetrating radar surveys were conducted in 1987 and 1992, but the results were inconclusive.</p> <p>A Preliminary Source Evaluation was conducted at the source area in 1993 and included soil and groundwater sampling. Surface soils were field screened for evidence of mustard agent, lewisite, phosgene, and chloropicrin. Subsurface soils and groundwater were also analyzed for chemical agents and their breakdown products. Neither chemical agent nor agent breakdown products were present in the soil or groundwater sampled.</p> <p>In 1995, an interim record of decision was signed to conduct an interim remedial action (IRA) to ensure that no chemical warfare materiel was buried at the source area. The 1995 IRA consisted of excavating the site to ensure that no chemical agents remained. A site excavation found no cylinders, crates, or other evidence of chemical agents. Soil and groundwater analytical results from the 1995 IRA indicated that neither chemical agents nor agent breakdown products were present.</p> <p>Based on the results of the 1995 IRA, the Army, State of Alaska, and United Sates Environmental Protection Agency agreed to a no-further-action decision for the Chemical Agent Dump Site. In fiscal year (FY) 1997, a no further action record of decision was signed, which results in response complete (RC) for the site.</p>								
RESTORATION ACTION STATUS								
Phase	Prior FY14	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY19+
Preliminary Assessment	1989-1990							
Site Inspection	1991-1992							
Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study	1994-1995							
IRA	1995							
RC	1997							